

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 431 Marsac
Park City, Summit County, Utah UTM: 12 458240 4499170

Name of Structure: Marsac Elementary School T. R. S.

Present Owner: Park City Corporation
P.O. Box 1480

Owner Address: Park City, Utah 84760

Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: PC-730-T-X

Legal Description Kind of Building:

Beginning at the Northernmost corner of a tract of land as described in a QCD to the Board of Ed. of the Park City School District recorded as entry #99092 in Book J, Page 84 in the office of the Recorder of Summit Co., Utah, said point also being on the W'ly right-of-way of Marsac Ave, thence S 23°38' E 37.80 feet to the true point of beginning; thence S 23°38' E along said right-of-way line 185 feet, S 66°2' W 98 feet, N 23°38' W 185 feet, N 66°22' E 98 feet to point of beginning. .42 acre

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Park City School District Construction Date: 1935-36 Demolition Date:

Original Use: educational--school Present Use: government

Building Condition: Integrity: Preliminary Evaluation: Final Register Status:

☐ Excellent ☐ Site ☐ Unaltered ☒ Significant ☐ Not of the ☐ National Landmark ☐ District
☒ Good ☐ Ruins ☒ Minor Alterations ☐ Contributory Historic Period ☐ National Register ☐ Multi-Resource
☐ Deteriorated ☐ Major Alterations ☐ Not Contributory ☐ State Register ☐ Thematic

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: 1984 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1984 Photo No.:

Views: ☐ Front ☐ Side ☐ Rear ☐ Other

Views: ☐ Front ☐ Side ☐ Rear ☐ Other

Research Sources:

☒ Abstract of Title ☒ Sanborn Maps ☒ Newspapers ☐ U of U Library
☒ Plat Records/Map ☐ City Directories ☒ Utah State Historical Society ☐ BYU Library
☐ Tax Card & Photo ☐ Biographical Encyclopedias ☐ Personal Interviews ☐ USU Library
☐ Building Permit ☐ Obituary Index ☐ LDS Church Archives ☐ SLC Library
☐ Sewer Permit ☒ County & City Histories ☐ LDS Genealogical Society ☐ Other

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):

The Park Record (Park City, Utah), 1935-36.

Works Progress Administration. A Report of the Works Division: Utah Emergency Relief Administration, April 15, 1934-October 31, 1935. Salt Lake City: Works Progress Administration, 1936.

"Carl W. Scott," Architects File, Preservation Office, Utah State Historical Society.

"George W. Welch," Architects File, Preservation Office, Utah State Historical Society.

Street Address:

Site No:

Architect/Builder: Carl W. Scott & George W. Welch/unknown

Building Materials: brick

Building Type/Style: PWA Moderne

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

This school, sitting high on the hill to the east of downtown Park City, is an interesting example of public works architecture in Utah. The building itself is three stories high and is constructed of rock-faced, yellow brick. The roof is flat and there is a low band of terra cotta coping along the edge. The principal facade is symmetrical and it is divided into four bays, each three windows wide. Low relief pilasters separate the bays. Two-story entrance porticos are found between the two middle and the two outside bays. Each portico has a shallow parapet, clipped corners, and decoratively patterned brick surrounding narrow vertical window panels. The principal decorative motif found on the building is a low relief, torch-like figure that is found at the top of each pilaster and at the corners of each portico. These figures break the horizontal line at the edge of the roof and give the building a crenelated appearance. A long concrete stairway runs down the hillside to connect the school to the town below. The stairway's smooth lines and geometric embellishment serve to focus attention on the overall design of the building and should be considered an integral part of this nomination. The school has received little alteration over the years and remains in good original condition.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1935-35

Built in 1935-36, the Marsac Elementary School is part of the Public Works Buildings Thematic Resources nomination and is significant because it helps document the impact of New Deal programs in Utah, which was one of the states that the Great Depression of the 1930s most severely affected. In 1933 Utah had an unemployment rate of 36 percent, the fourth highest in the country, and for the period 1932-1940 Utah's unemployment rate averaged 25 percent. Because the depression hit Utah so hard, federal programs were extensive in the state. Overall, per capita federal spending in Utah during the 1930s was 9th among the 48 states, and the percentage of workers on federal work projects was far above the national average. Building programs were of great importance. During the 1930s virtually every public building constructed in Utah, including county courthouses, city halls, fire stations, national guard armories, public school buildings, and a variety of others, were built under federal programs by one of several agencies, including the Civil Works Administration (CWA), the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), the National Youth Administration (NYA), the Works Progress Administration (WPA), or the Public Works Administration (PWA), and almost without exception none of the buildings would have been built when they were without the assistance of the federal government.

The Marsac Elementary School in Park City is one of 233 public works buildings identified in Utah that were built during the 1930s and early 1940s. Only 130 of those 233 buildings are known to remain today and retain their historic integrity. Of the 233, 107 were public school buildings. This is one of 43 elementary schools built, of which 19 are still standing. In Summit County 7 buildings were constructed, 6 of which remain.

(See Continuation Sheet)

Marsac Elementary School
History continued:

This school building was constructed between 1935 and 1936 as a Public Works Administration (PWA) project and officially opened for students on November 15, 1936. It was formally dedicated on December 4, 1936. The architects were Carl W. Scott and George W. Welch of Salt Lake City, who designed more school buildings during the 1930s than any other Utah firm.

Construction of the building was part of a \$100,000 building program that the Park City School District undertook in the fall of 1935. Included also in the package was the construction of a new high school mechanical arts building. Scott and Welch also designed it. Construction on the 2 buildings proceeded at the same time, and they were both dedicated at the same time. The mechanical arts building has since been demolished, though the main high school building, which was constructed in 1926, remains standing.

At its dedication the Park City newspaper described the new Marsac School as follows: "The new elementary school contains 24 class room units, 2 general storage rooms, 4 toilet rooms, a boiler plant and coal storage bins. Three of the class room units are devoted to an office suite for principal, nurse and teachers' rest room, and a combination auditorium and playroom. The latter is fitted with small stage with cyclorama and velour curtains and steel folding chairs. Ramps replace stairways, plaster is accoustic throughout, except ramps which are covered with diatto, all floors are covered with battleship linoleum. This combination of accoustic plaster and battleship linoleum renders the building practically noiseless. Building is wired for light, power, fuel, telephone and sound. The latter includes an automatic bell system, operated from a central electric clock, and loud speaker system to serve both auditorium and class rooms, and portable sound picture apparatus. The heating system is automatically controlled both at the generating plant and univent heating outlets. The entire building is of fireproof construction. Steel, reinforced concrete, brick metal lath, and plaster are used throughout. Translucent glass is used in exterior windows. Playgrounds are spacious and adequate. Landscaping and the building approaches are projects for the future."¹

Approval for funding the building was given at a bond election in Park City on October 19, 1935. Approval was overwhelming: 169 in favor to 12 opposed. Prior to the construction of the school two older schools, Jefferson and Lincoln, were demolished, and materials from them used in construction of the new.

The building's architects, Carl W. Scott and George W. Welch were both prominent Utah architects. Scott was born October 17, 1887, in Minneapolis, Kansas, and graduated in 1907 from the University of Utah with a degree in mining. He was given credit for the idea of the concrete "U" on the hill that is still above the university campus. Following graduation he began a career in architecture as a draftsman for Richard Kletting. In 1914 he became partners with George W. Welch. Welch was born in Denver, Colorado, on May 15, 1886, graduated from Colorado College, and came to Salt Lake City to begin work as an architect. Active in political affairs while here, he was a member of the Utah House of Representatives from 1919 until 1921. Among the buildings that Scott and Welch designed were Salt Lake City's Elks' Club Building, South High School, the Masonic Temple, and many public school

(See Continuation Sheet)

Marsac Elementary School

History continued:

buildings throughout Utah including Hawthorne Elementary School and Bryant Junior High School in Salt Lake, Park City High School, Tooele High School, Blanding High School, and Cedar City Elementary School. They also designed a number of commercial buildings including the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company Warehouse, the Nelson-Ricks Creamery Building, and the Firestone Tire Company Building, all in Salt Lake City.

[†]The Park Record, December 1, 1936, p. 1.